

Appreciation

Dr U. S. Jayawickrama

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Dr. Upendra Srinath Jayawickrama was educated at Richmond College, Galle and Royal College Colombo. He obtained his MBBS from the Faculty of Medicine, University of Colombo. Having initially trained under the eminent Professor P B Fernando for two years, he travelled to the United Kingdom for further studies and became a Member and then a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians.

On his return to Sri Lanka he worked in Nuwara-Eliya as a visiting physician and in 1970 was appointed consultant physician at General Hospital Colombo, a post he occupied for 20 years.

He co-founded the first Medical Intensive Care Unit in the National Hospital of Sri Lanka along with his colleagues Dr. P.T. de Silva and Dr. Surendra Ramachandran.

His contribution to medical education was many. He was the Chairman of the Board of Study in Medicine from 1989 to 1992 and is credited for being the founder of Endocrinology and Gastroenterology as specialties in Sri Lanka – a move which had far reaching effects on the quality of healthcare. Dr. Jayawickrama taught clinical pharmacology and therapeutics at the University of Colombo as an honorary lecturer. Following his retirement from government service he was appointed Professor of Pharmacology in the North Colombo Medical College where he served from 1990 to 1995.

He trained many leading physicians and endocrinologists and was held in the highest esteem by all those who came into contact with him as a colleague, teacher and mentor. Many of us who have had the privilege of being taught by him will always remember

the gentle, soft spoken physician whose sartorial elegance was as part of him as his genial good humour.

Dr. Jayawickrama was President of the Ceylon College of Physicians in 1983. However he was best known as the founding president of the Diabetes Association of Sri Lanka which was established in 1982. He was also a founder member of the Endocrine Society of Sri Lanka and Chairman of the board of trustees of the Diabetes Association of Sri Lanka.

Dr. Jayawickrama was a man of many talents. From his school days he was interested in art and studied under Aubrey Collette while at Royal College. At the age of 13 he displayed three of his paintings at an exhibition organized for the war effort in 1942 by a group of renowned artists such as George Keyt. Along with his wife he expanded his skills and went on to create masterpieces in copper – the Mona Lisa and “Gilanopasthanaya by the Buddha”. He also combined wood and copper known as marquetry and then proceeded to master the art of stained glass creations as well. His modesty however made him display these amazing artworks only at his residence.

Dr. Jayawickrama regularly attended the inauguration of the CCP annual academic sessions and proudly helped light the lamp of ceremony as the most senior past president present.

He passed away on 10th October 2018. His soft voice and gentle demeanor will be sorely missed by all his colleagues. May he attain the supreme bliss of Nibbana.

Dr Naomali Amarasena

